

Buildings Report

Intruder Alarms

There has been a new intruder alarm system implemented in the three buildings in the Doggetts courtyard area and at the Cemetery Depot. The new arrangement means that an alarm being triggered in Church House, Rickards Hall, Doggetts Barn or the Depot will be managed by a key holding security company who will attend the site on our behalf. This will mitigate the need for a member of staff to respond in unsociable hours, and possibly be put at personal risk. The security company holds a list of staff contacts who may be approached for further advice in the case of a call out.

Safety Risk Assessments and Inspections

All building, fire, electrical, gas, asbestos, and legionella risk assessments have been reviewed for 2022 – 2023 and all annual and periodic inspections are up to date.

All weekly, monthly, and annual procedures and activities are now monitored and evidenced through the online SafetyNest system. Current gas safety, electrical safety and other certificates are now being uploaded to SafetyNest for ease of reference, monitoring, and audit.

All Council Buildings have now had their annual inspection and several works identified which will be undertaken during this year.

Doggetts Barn

All lighting has now been replaced with LED bulbs which are much more environmentally friendly and should reduce electricity costs. The gas meter has been moved and made more secure to reduce the risk of accidental damage. The security lighting has been upgraded and improved, allowing the lights to be operated from inside the building, and adjusted to give a longer delay on leaving the building.

Rickards Hall

The decorating and repairs to the walls have now been completed, and damage to the under-floor in the main hall repaired. New flooring has been installed in the kitchen, toilet, and common areas to a good standard. Water damage to the wall at the rear of the hall will be repaired once the foliage outside has been cleared.

Church House

The building inspection carried out recently has revealed some serious cracks in the ceiling plasterwork on the first floor which need to be remedied. This may require work carried out by a specialist in listed buildings, and quotations for this work are being arranged.

Cemetery Depot

The rear entrance door to the depot has been replaced with a heavy-duty security door after a recent break-in attempt.

The old water pipes have been replaced and reconfigured to remove any dead ends which has reduced the risk of Legionella infection significantly. The cold-water tank has been disconnected for the same reason. The immersion heater tank has now been replaced with an on-demand system, so there is now no water storage system in operation in the building.

The ground staff have installed new kitchen units in their rest room to a good standard.

Sports Pavilion

The replacement of the windows and installation of shutters at the pavilion will be going to tender soon once a full specification has been drawn up.

Market Yard Toilets

The doors to the toilets have all had security locks fitted so they can be secured overnight. This seems to have reduced the level of vandalism significantly, although occasional incidents still occur. Difficulties in finding reliable contractors to carry out repairs in the disabled toilet continue, but it is hoped that this work along with the hot water supply problem will be completed soon, and the toilets will be fully operational.

Mowshurst Barn

After a recent break-in, a more appropriate lock arrangement has been identified and will be installed shortly.